ISSN 0041-7904

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 45, No. 15 April 14, 1986

Library Cosponsors Documentary Film About Preservation

The Council on Library Resources (CLR), the Library of Congress (LC), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are sponsoring the production of a documentary film on preservation for television broadcast. The purpose of the documentary is to inform a public of information users that a preservation problem exists with library materials, that it deserves wider attention, and that it has identifiable solutions. Funding for the project has been provided by the Mellon Foundation, NEH, and CLR. Terry Sanders, of the American Film Foundation, will produce the film, which is expected to be completed in a year.

Those who work in research libraries and those whose scholarly activity is linked to libraries know that the record of human endeavor is in jeopardy, but the wider population of educated library users does not know that books and other library materials are "endangered species."

Many individuals and organizations are at work to establish a systematic approach to preserving library collections, but that task will require large sums of money, from both private sources and public agencies. It follows that there is a clear need to raise the level of awareness about the preservation problem among those who are most likely to influence public policy and funding decisions. This documentary film should be an important step toward achieving this goal.

A principal objective of the film will be to focus on the relationships between information in many forms and the daily lives of viewers. A profile of modern libraries will be presented to dramatize how they differ from the simple book respositories viewers will

(Continued on p. 103)

Also in This Issue . . .

Folklife concert 102

Bodleian service interruption 102

Library publishes *Samuel Beckett* 102

Bruno Nettl to lecture 103

Disk visitors 103

Meetings and events around the Library 104

There is no Staff News insert in this issue of the LC *Information Bulletin.*

Folklife Center's First Outdoor Concert Features Bluegrass Band

The bluegrass band of Berline-Crary-Hickman will play for the first free noontime concert of the American Folklife Center's 1986 series. The concert will be held Thursday, April 24, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on the Neptune Plaza. The 1986 Outdoor Concert Series marks the tenth anniversary of the American Folklife Center's free noontime concerts on the Neptune Plaza.

The members of the band are Byron Berline playing fiddle, Dan Crary on guitar, and John Hickman playing banjo. Acclaimed as masters of their trade, all of the members have had a significant influence on bluegrass music on their individual intrument. Through studio recordings for major labels, motion picture and television sound tracks, record albums, and personal appearances in the United States and 15 countries abroad, the band has made a major mark on traditional bluegrass music.

Following the concert Neil V. Rosenberg will deliver an illustrated lecture on the history of bluegrass in the Whittall Pavilion of the Jefferson Building from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Rosenberg is an acknowledged expert on bluegrass music and professor of folklore at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Bodleian Announces Interruption to Some Services

The Bodleian Library of Oxford University in England has announced the first stage of construction work—scheduled to begin on June 16 and continuing to October 18, 1986—that will affect its service to readers using rare and older books, but not manuscripts. The secretary of the library has a list of the affected shelf marks and a list of alternate access libraries in Britain. This list and further details on the construction schedule or disruptions to service may be obtained from the Secretary of the Library, Bodleian Library, Oxford, OX1 3BG, England.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Information Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Library Publishes *Samuel Beckett: Nayman of Noland* by Richard Ellmann

Samuel Beckett: Nyman of Noland, a lecture delivered by Richard Ellmann, has been published by the Library of Congress, in anticipation of Samuel Beckett's 80th birthday on April 13. The lecture, held last year in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium and sponsored by the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund, was the final lecture of four presented at the Library by the distinguished literary critic Richard Ellman.

In earlier lectures, Prof. Ellmann considered the work of Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, and James Joyce, who with Samuel Beckett were four Dubliners who left their native city to pursue literary careers and find their distinctive themes and styles elsewhere, in England and Europe. In the Beckett lecture, Prof. Ellmann traces the career and examines the work of this unusual and original playwright, and in addition considers Beckett in relation to his three Dublin predecessors.

Beckett is perhaps the bleakest writer of the four, the poet of old age and disease, of death and decay, although he can be comic in his presentation of these themes. According to Prof. Ellmann, many elements found in Beckett's work, including the dark visions, can be found in the work of the others as well, however different the writers may seem at first. The subtitle of this booklet, which refers to the artist, is taken from Joyce's novel *Finnegans Wake,* for example.

Richard Ellmann is the author of biographies of W.B. Yeats and James Joyce. His other books include: *Eminent Domain: Yeats Among Wilde, Joyce, Pound, Eliot, and Auden* and *Golden Codgers: Biographical Speculations.* He has edited two volumes of Joyce's *Critical Writings.* Prof. Ellmann was born in Highland Park, Mich., and earned degrees at Yale University and Trinity College, Dublin. He now teaches at Emory University in Atlanta, where he is Woodruff Professor.

The 39-page publication, *Samuel Beckett: Nayman of Noland,* is available free from the Library of Congress, Central Services Division, Washington, DC 20540.

The Library plans to bring together revised versions of all four of Prof. Ellmann's lectures to make a book entitled *Four Dubliners,* which will be available in the summer of 1986.

Bruno Nettl to Lecture On American Indian Music

Bruno Nettle the 1985–86 Harold Spivacke Consultant in the Music Division, will deliver a lecture entitled "Musical Ideas and Concepts in Blackfoot Indian Culture" on Wednesday evening, April 23, at 8 p.m. in the Whittall Pavilion. The lecture, sponsored by the Da Capo Fund and dedicated to the memory of Donald L. Leavitt, will be open to the public at no charge; no tickets will be required.

Dr. Nettl has been a professor of music and anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1964. He earned a doctorate in music with minors in anthropology and folklore at Indiana University, and a masters degree in library science at the University of Michigan. He has spent four summers on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation in Montana and has taught at numerous universities in the United States and abroad.

A native of Prague, Czechoslovakia, Dr. Nettl has lived in this country since the age of nine. Among his honors are Fulbright fellowships and lectureships, as well as fellowships from the American Institute of Indian Studies and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1985 he was appointed University Senior Scholar at the University of Illinois.

Library's Optical Disk Program Attracts Wide Interest

The Library's Office of Planning and Development gave tours on the Optical Disk Pilot Program in 1985 to 166 groups and individuals from the United States and nine foreign countries. Groups ranged in size from two individuals to more than 50 persons associated with a conference.

The pilot program is a four-year project designed to evaluate the use of optical disk technology for information preservation, compact storage, and determination of costs and benefits of the technology in a library setting. Two types of disk storage are being tested in the Optical Disk Pilot Program. High-resolution images of print materials—periodicals, government documents, and scholarly journals—are being stored on optical digital disks. Lower resolution images of non-print materials, including glass lantern slides, photographs, motion picture publicity stills, and architectural drawings, are being stored on analog videodisks.

The analog videodisk station in the Prints and Photographs Division was opened to the public in June 1984. A second station, in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Reading Room opened in January 1985. Digital optical disk stations, located in four of the Library's reading rooms (Main, Law, Serials, and Science) were opened to the public in January 1986.

Visitors to the program tend to fall into three major categories—librarians with a general interest, engineers, and others, including librarians with a special interest in the technology.

Planning Office tours provide an overview of the program, including a background talk, demonstrations of digital optical disk retrieval and the analog videodisk system, and a look at the optical disk hardware. Specialized demonstrations are also given independently by staff members of the Prints and Photographs Division, engineers in the Automated Systems Office, and others.

Documentary Film *(Continued from p. 101)*

remember from their school days. The importance of access to information and the way in which people might be affected by the loss of library materials will also be emphasized. Technological innovation and computerized information delivery will also be featured in the film.

Another objective of the film is to stress the relationship between library information and scholarship so that university faculty members and scholars will appreciate the need for preservation of materials, in either their original or secondary formats. The film will also stress the essential differences between original format preservation, which for reasons of cost can be done only on the most important materials, and preserving the great mass of important but standard research materials, which in many cases will have to be accomplished by transferring the information to another format.

Over the years, increasing numbers of Americans have become aware of the importance of preserving the best of what has been built by each preceding generation and of the necessity of protecting their natural world. There is now some evidence that a parallel interest in the full range of intellectual history is growing and attracting wider attention. As yet, there is no cohesive public sense of a preservation ethic for the product of mankind's accumulated learning and experience. Attending to the problem is an obligation for society, which stands to lose not only books but the record of much human activity itself. A purposeful, long, and team effort is required to build public understanding and to encourage widespread support for preservation work itself.

Among the activities projected to build this ethic are: (1) distribution of information for guidance and

(Continued on p. 104)

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Monday, April 21

☐ Literary program to be announced. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

☐ "The Use of Photographs for Persuasion," Kathleen Collins, Prints and Photographs Division. Special Interest Group on American Studies/Special Collections. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Lobbying for Libraries," Eileen Cooke, executive director, Washington, D.C., office of the American Library Association. An LC Professional Association program. Mumford Room, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

Thursday, April 24

☐ Bluegrass, Free Noontime Concert Series, American Folklife Center. Neptune Plaza, 12 noon.

☐ Discussion of the Histories of Herodotus. Great Books Study Group. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m. **For members and staff.**

☐ "Bluegrass: A History," Neil Rosenberg, professor of folklore, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Whittall Pavilion. 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 25

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 26

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Monday, April 28

☐ Literary program to be announced. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

☐ "Atlantic Port Cities: Economy, Culture and Society in the Atlantic World, 1650–1850," two-day symposium sponsored by the Library's Hispanic Division and the Department of History of the Johns Hopkins University. Mumford Room.

☐ James "Son" Thomas, Delta Blues. Free Noontime Concert Series. American Folklife Center. Neptune Plaza, 12 noon.

Friday, May 2

☐ "Atlantic Port Cities," symposium (see May 1).

☐ Festival of American Chamber Music, Alexander String Quartet. Coolidge Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Events are open to the public unless otherwise specified.

Documentary Film *(Continued from p. 103)*
assistance of local libraries; (2) preparation of factual publications for use by governing boards of universities and by public and independent libraries and archives; (3) sponsorship of seminars and conferences in universities and other settings to extend understanding to the scholarly public and promote research; (4) encouraging governments, institutions, and individuals to provide support for conservation and preservation; and (5) promotion of new training programs for individuals wishing to take part in the work of preservation and conservation.

ISSN 0041-7904 *Key title:* Library of Congress information bulletin